

1 AN ACT concerning forest preserve districts.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act is
5 amended by adding Section 7c as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 805/7c new)

7 Sec. 7c. Conveyance of property for road purposes.
8 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other
9 law to the contrary, a forest preserve district located in a
10 county with a population of not less than 750,000 and not
11 more than 1,200,000 may not sell, lease, or convey any
12 interest in land to any other unit of State or local
13 government for the purpose of constructing a new roadway or
14 widening an existing roadway on or through forest preserve
15 land unless the proposed sale, lease, or conveyance is
16 approved by a concurrence of three-fourths of all the members
17 of the board of commissioners and, in the case of a proposed
18 new roadway, submitted to the electors of the district at a
19 regular election and approved by a majority of the electors
20 voting on the question. For any proposed new roadway on or
21 through forest preserve land, if such a proposed sale, lease,
22 or conveyance is approved by a concurrence of three-fourths
23 of all commissioners, the board of commissioners shall
24 certify the question to the proper election authority, which
25 must submit the question at an election in accordance with
26 the Election Code.

27 The question must be in substantially the following form:

28 Shall the (insert name of forest preserve district)
29 remove land from preservation to be (insert sold, leased,
30 or conveyed) to (insert name of unit of State or local
31 government to which the land is to be sold, leased, or

1 conveyed) for the purpose of constructing a county,
2 State, municipal, or township public road through (insert
3 location of road).

4 The votes must be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

5 If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote
6 in the affirmative, the forest preserve district may sell,
7 lease, or convey the land for the proposed new roadway with a
8 vote of concurrence by three-fourths of all members of the
9 board of commissioners and upon such terms and conditions as
10 the board of commissioners determines to be in the best
11 interest of the district.

12 Nothing in this Section prevents or limits a forest
13 preserve district from constructing and maintaining its own
14 road network on forest preserve lands for the purposes of
15 providing access to the lands and facilities of the district.

16 This Section does not apply to the sale, lease, or
17 conveyance of land for improvements to existing roads
18 necessary for public safety that are limited to sidewalks,
19 intersection improvements, and curb and gutter improvements.